

1. This Office action is in response to the amendment filed December 19, 2008. Claims 1-6, 8-16, and 18-24 are pending. The amendment has been entered and the remark considered.
2. Claims 1-6, 8-16, and 18-24 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims recite a communication system and method for updating the program in a meter network via the power line using a particular protocol wherein a concentrator broadcasts program data and queries the meters to see if any of the meters did not receive the broadcast correctly; the meter responds to the query; and the concentrator sends the missing program portions via a general broadcast to all meters. Such a combination is not taught, suggested, or made obvious by the prior art of record.
4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALBERT K. WONG whose telephone number is (571)272-3057. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian A. Zimmerman can be reached on 571-272-3059. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Albert K Wong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2612

February 23, 2009